

Chapter 9 Immigrants and Refugees

Chapter 9 provides a profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts. HIV and AIDS case data for people who are not born in the United States are presented to provide a demographic description of immigrants and refugees living with HIV/AIDS and to describe the ways in which they were exposed to HIV. The countries represented in the HIV and AIDS data are grouped by World Geographic Regions of Origin, consistent with standard UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) classification based on geography, cultural similarities, and the profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in each country. For a listing of countries with at least 10 people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts for each World Region of Origin, please see Table 9.6 at the end of this chapter. (While HIV and AIDS case data are the only data presented in this chapter, additional relevant information about refugees and immigrants in MA can be gleaned from other data sources, including birth certificates (MDPH Bureau of Health Statistics), the report on Refugees and Immigrants in Massachusetts (MDPH Bureau of Family and Community Health) and the U.S. Census (U.S. Census Bureau)).

Nearly 100 countries of origin are represented among people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts. The Caribbean Basin is the birthplace for the largest proportion of non-US born people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts (45%), followed by Sub-Saharan Africa (21%).

Overall, the majority of non-US born people living with HIV/AIDS are males. However, among non-US born people living with HIV infection without AIDS, the gender distribution is nearly equal, with males and females accounting for 55% and 45% of cases respectively. Across race/ethnicity, the largest proportion of non-US born people living with HIV/AIDS is Black (59%) and the next largest proportion is Hispanic (23%).

Unlike US born people living with HIV/AIDS for whom injection drug use accounts for 35% of reported exposures, only a small percentage of non-US born people living with HIV/AIDS were exposed through injection drug use (7%). The most frequently reported mode of exposure is presumed to be heterosexual sex for 41% of non-US born people living with HIV/AIDS. Male to male sex and heterosexual sex each account for an additional 20% of HIV exposures among the non-US born.

I. Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Prevalence – HIV and AIDS Case Data

Non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS compared to people born in the US living with HIV infection/AIDS:

- Non-US born people account for 12% of people living with HIV infection, 15% of people living with AIDS, and 13% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS.
- Women account for 38% of non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS, compared to 28% of all people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA.
- Black people account for 59% of non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS, compared to 25% of all people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA.
- Of the 25% of people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA who are Black, 30% are non-US born.
- From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of AIDS diagnoses that were among non-US born people increased from 9% to 22%. (See Figure 9.1)

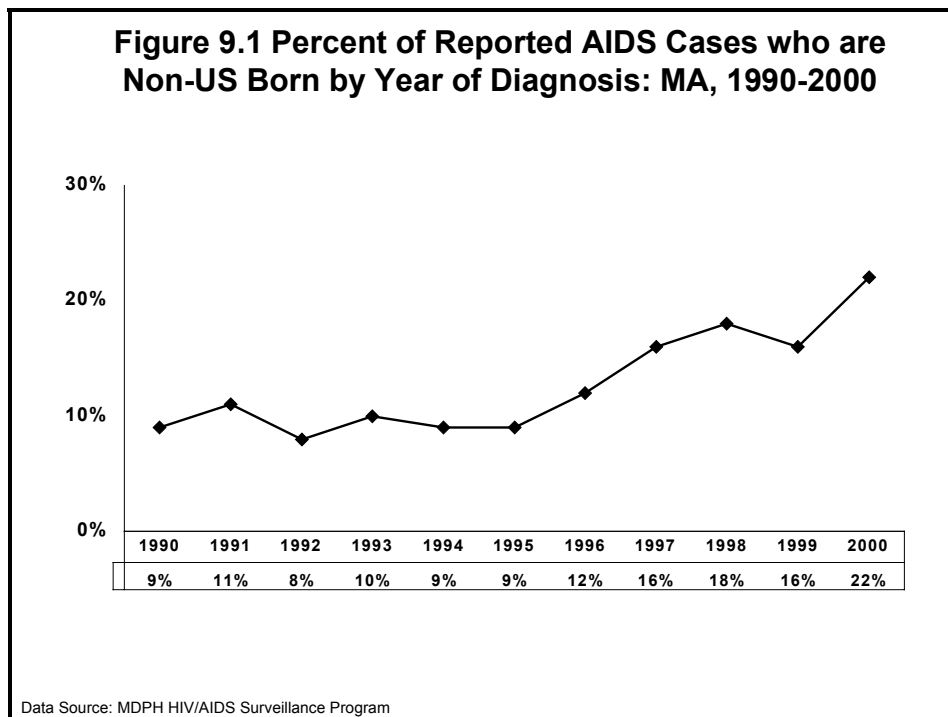


Table 9.1. People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS who are Non-US Born by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Exposure Mode: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HIV		AIDS		TOTAL HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	348	55%	716	66%	1064	62%
Female	289	45%	365	34%	654	38%
Total	637		1,081		1,718	
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	80	13%	143	13%	223	13%
Black (non-Hispanic)	352	55%	656	61%	997	59%
Hispanic/Latino	162	25%	232	21%	394	23%
Asian/Pacific Islander	34	5%	47	4%	81	5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	1	<1%	1	<1%
Unknown	9	1%	2	<1%	11	1%
Total	637		1,081		1,718	
By Exposure Mode:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male Sex with Male (MSM)	141	22%	210	19%	351	20%
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	40	6%	76	7%	116	7%
MSM/IDU	6	1%	13	1%	19	1%
Heterosexual Sex	114	18%	235	22%	349	20%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/ IDU	22	3%	33	3%	55	3%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/ Person w/ HIV or AIDS	88	14%	195	18%	283	17%
◦ Heterosexual Sex w/Bisexual male	3	<1%	2	<1%	5	<1%
◦ Other Heterosexual Sex	1	<1%	5	<1%	6	<1%
Presumed Heterosexual	286	45%	411	38%	697	41%
Blood/Blood products	4	1%	24	2%	28	2%
Pediatric	-- ¹	-- ¹	4	<1%	4	<1%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No Identified Risk	46	7%	108	10%	154	9%
Total	637		1,081		1,718	
¹ Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- Women account for 38% and men 62% of non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS. (See figure 9.2) For US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS, the gender representation is 26% women and 72% men.

- For non-US born people living with HIV infection, the proportional representation approaches gender parity with women and men accounting for 45% and 55%, respectively. For US born people living with HIV infection the comparable proportional representation for women and men is 28% and 72%, respectively.
- Blacks comprise the largest proportion of non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS at 59%. (See Figure 9.3)
- Presumed heterosexual (41%) is the predominant reported mode of exposure to HIV among non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS. (See Figure 9.4)

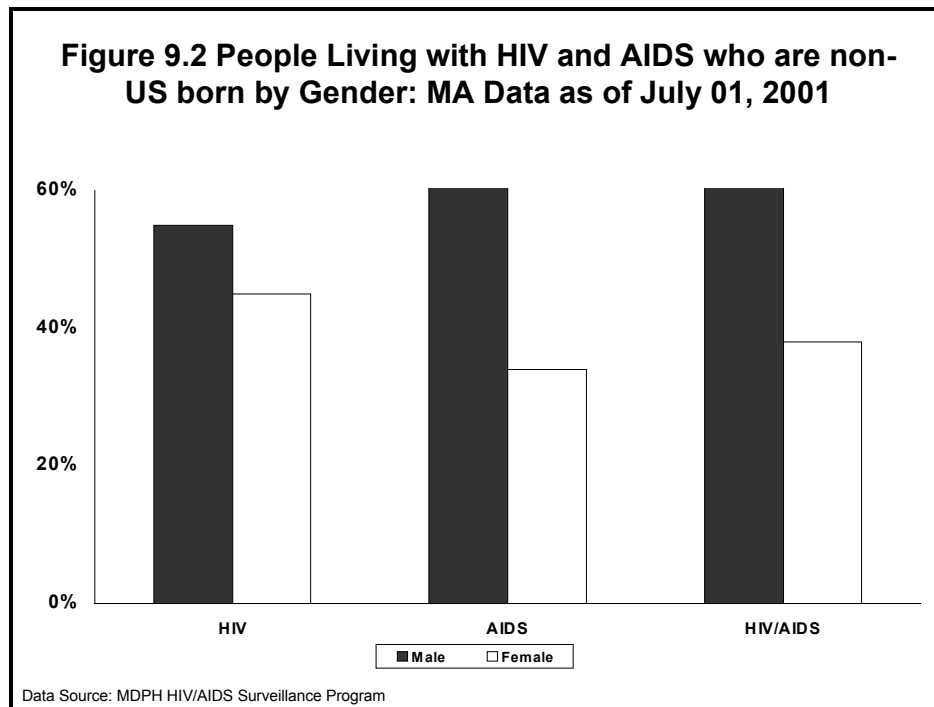
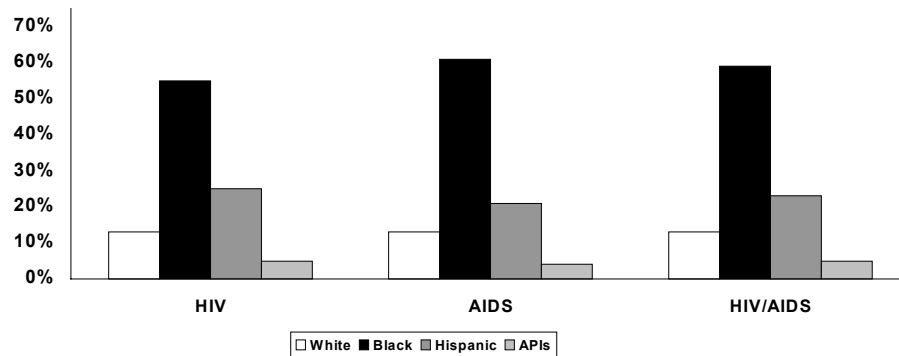
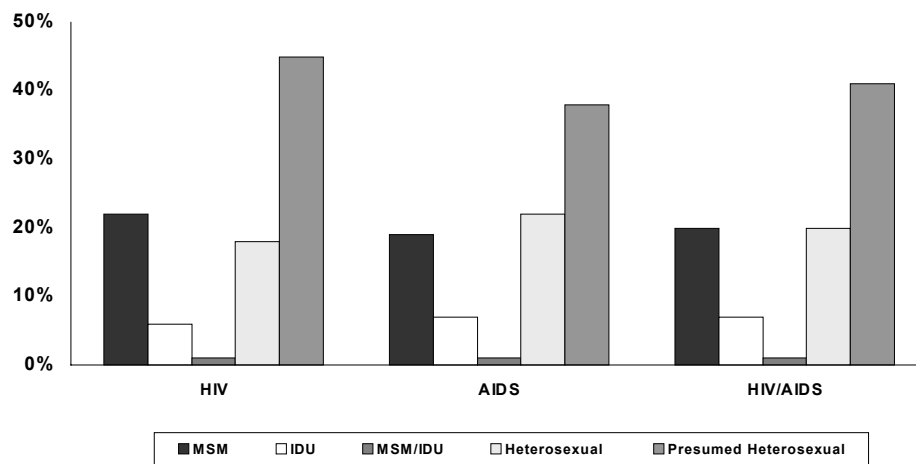


Figure 9.3 People Living with HIV and AIDS who are non-US born by Race/Ethnicity: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Figure 9.4 People Living with HIV and AIDS who are non-US born by Exposure Mode: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Table 9.2. People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS who are Non-US Born by Health Service Region (HSR) and Region of Origin: MA

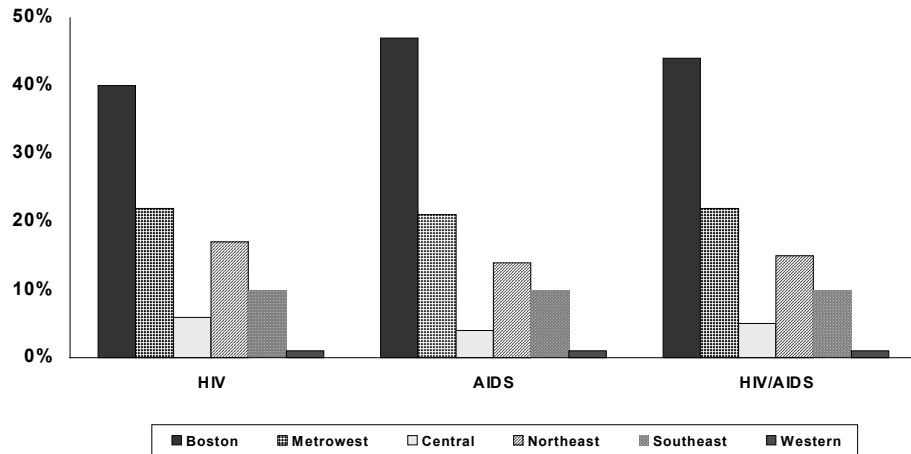
Data as of July 1, 2001

	HIV		AIDS		<u>TOTAL</u> HIV/AIDS	
By HSR:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Boston HSR	253	40%	507	47%	760	44%
Metro West HSR	143	22%	232	21%	375	22%
Central HSR	40	6%	38	4%	78	5%
Northeast HSR	108	17%	150	14%	258	15%
Southeast HSR	61	10%	113	10%	174	10%
Western HSR	9	1%	16	1%	25	1%
Unknown ¹	3	<1%	0	0	3	<1%
Prison	20	3%	25	2%	45	3%
Total	637		1,081		1,718	
By Region of Origin:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Caribbean Basin	232	36%	537	49%	769	45%
Central & South America	125	20%	168	16%	293	17%
Central & South Asia	2	<1%	3	<1%	5	<1%
North Africa & Middle East	2	<1%	4	<1%	6	<1%
North America & Europe	50	8%	107	10%	157	9%
Pacific Rim	7	1%	8	1%	15	1%
Southeast Asia	23	4%	34	3%	57	3%
Sub-Saharan Africa	166	26%	188	17%	354	21%
Unspecified	30	5%	32	3%	62	4%
Total	637		1,081		1,718	

1 Includes all individuals whose Health Service Region of residence is unknown
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

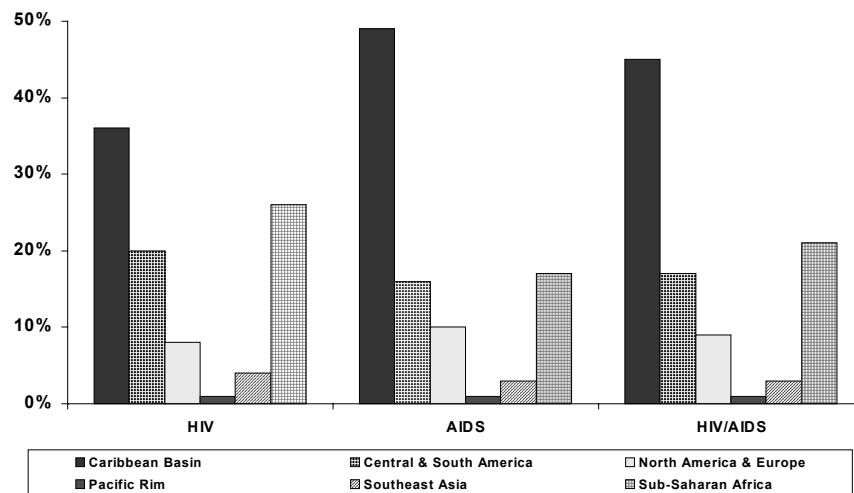
- The distribution across HSR among non-US born people living with HIV infection is similar to that among non-US born people living with AIDS. (See Figure 9.5)
- 66% of non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS live in the Boston (44%) and Metrowest (22%) HSRs.
- Most of the non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA are from the Caribbean Basin (45%), which includes Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. (See Figure 9.6)
- The proportions of people born in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central & South America are higher among people living with HIV infection than among people living with AIDS, whereas the proportion born in the Caribbean Basin is less among people living with HIV compared to people living with AIDS.

Figure 9.5 People Living with HIV and AIDS who are non-US born by Health Service Region: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Figure 9.6 People Living with HIV and AIDS who are non-US born by World Region of Origin: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Table 9.3. People Living with HIV Infection/AIDS who are Non-US Born, Gender by Mode of Exposure and Region of Origin: MA*Data as of July 1, 2001*

	Male		Female	
By Mode of Exposure:	N	%	N	%
Male Sex with Male (MSM)	351	33%	--	--
Injection Drug Use (IDU)	82	8%	34	5%
MSM/IDU	19	2%	--	--
Heterosexual Sex	121	11%	228	35%
Presumed Heterosexual	354	33%	343	53%
Other	13	1%	19	3%
NIR	124	12%	30	5%
By Region of Origin:	N	%	N	%
Caribbean Basin	439	41%	330	50%
C&S America	241	23%	52	8%
C&S Asia	4	<1%	1	<1%
N Africa & Middle East	5	<1%	1	<1%
N America & Europe	133	13%	24	4%
Pacific Rim	10	1%	5	1%
Southeast Asia	47	4%	10	2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	150	14%	204	31%
Unspecified	35	3%	27	4%
Total	1,064		654	

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- For non-US born men living with HIV infection/AIDS, presumed heterosexual and MSM account for equal proportions of mode of exposure at 33% each. In terms of world region of origin, 41% of these men are from the Caribbean Basin and 23% are from Central & South America. The predominant modes of exposure in these two world regions are heterosexual sex, MSM, and IDU. (Data source: UNAIDS, Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, June 2000, <http://www.unaids.org>). The reported modes of exposure here in MA therefore closely mirror those in the regions of origin.
- For Non-US born women, presumed heterosexual is the predominant mode of exposure at 53%, with heterosexual sex (with a partner with a specified risk or known to be HIV positive) accounting for an additional 35% of exposures. Eighty percent of the women living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts are from the Caribbean Basin (50%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (31%). The predominant mode of exposure to HIV in these two regions is heterosexual sex. (Data source: UNAIDS, Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, June 2000, <http://www.unaids.org>). Here too the predominant reported mode of exposure mirrors that in the region of origin.

Table 9.4 People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS¹ who are Non-US Born, by World Region of Origin² and Mode of Exposure: MA, 2001

Data as of July 1, 2001

	Caribbean Basin	C&S America	N America & Europe	Sub- Saharan Africa	Southeast Asia
MSM	8%	50%	55%	4%	35%
IDU	6%	5%	15%	7%	-- ³
MSM/IDU	1%	3%	2%	1%	-- ³
HTSX	27%	12%	8%	20%	12%
Pres. HTSX	45%	24%	13%	59%	40%
Other	2%	<1%	3%	4%	-- ³
NIR	12%	6%	4%	6%	9%
Total N	769	293	157	354	57
<p>1 Data do not include pediatric HIV cases 2 World Regions of C & S Asia, N Africa & Middle East, Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia not included in this analysis because small numbers make the data difficult to interpret 3 Percentages calculated from a numerator of 5 or less and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)</p>					

- Presumed heterosexual sex is the predominant reported mode of exposure to HIV for people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA who were born in the Caribbean Basin (45%).
- Male to male sex is the mode of exposure to HIV for about half the foreign born people from Central & South America as well as North America and Europe.
- Presumed heterosexual sex is the predominant reported mode of exposure to HIV for people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA who were born in Sub-Saharan Africa (59%).

Table 9.5 People Living with HIV Infection¹ and AIDS who are Non-US Born, by World Region of Origin² and Health Service Region: MA, 2001

Data as of July 1, 2001

	Caribbean Basin	C&S America	N America & Europe	Sub- Saharan Africa	Southeast Asia
Boston HSR	52%	54%	29%	28%	47%
Metrowest HSR	19%	20%	20%	33%	14%
Central HSR	4%	4%	3%	8%	9%
Northeast HSR	14%	12%	14%	17%	28%
Southeast HSR	8%	7%	31%	10%	0%
Western HSR	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%
Unknown ⁴	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%
Prison	3%	3%	1%	2%	-- ³
Total N	769	293	157	354	57

1 Data do not include pediatric HIV cases

2 World Regions of C & S Asia, N Africa & Middle East, Pacific Rim and Southeast Asia not included in this analysis because small numbers make the data difficult to interpret

3 Percentages calculated from a numerator less than 5 and a denominator of less than 100 are not presented

4 Includes all individuals whose Health Service Region of residence is unknown

Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- Most of the non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA live in the Boston, Metrowest, and Northeast HSRs. [The proportion of non-US born people living with HIV infection/AIDS resident in one of these three HSRs from each world region are as follows: Caribbean Basin (85%), Central & South America (86%), North America & Europe (63%), Pacific Rim (100%), Southeast Asia (89%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (78%).]
- Approximately half of people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA who were born the Caribbean Basin, Central & South America, or Southeast Asia reside in the Boston HSR.

Chapter 9 Appendix 1 World Region of Origin Key

World Regions of Origin by Countries of Origin with at least 10 People Living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts

Table 9.6 World Regions of Origin by Country of Origin with at least 10 People Living with HIV infection/AIDS: MA	
World Region of Origin	Countries of Origin with ≥ 10 People Living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts
Caribbean Basin	Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago
Central & South America	Brazil, Columbia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela
Central & South Asia	There are no countries of origin with ≥ 10 people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA in this region ¹
North Africa & Middle East	There are no countries of origin with ≥ 10 people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA in this region ²
North America & Europe	Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom
Pacific Rim	There are no countries of origin with ≥ 10 people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA in this region ³
Southeast Asia	Cambodia, Vietnam
Sub-Saharan Africa	Cameroon, Cape Verde Islands, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe
¹ Total number of people living with HIV infection/AIDS from C&S Asia = 5 ² Total number of people living with HIV infection/AIDS from N Africa & Middle East = 6 ³ Total number of people living with HIV infection/AIDS from Pacific Rim = 15 Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program	

